



Little Lobbying Needed

High Command Gets Behind Fort Knox Pro Shop Project

It doesn't do a professional, stationed at an armor base course, any harm if the commanding officer shoots in the 70s, a colonel who doubles as golf chmn. plays to a four handicap, and another colonel, intensely interested in golf, is something of an architect.

Or, at least, it didn't in the case of Todd Houck, the golfmaster at Lindsey GC, at Fort Knox, Ky.

Houck formerly operated in a shop that wasn't adequate in view of all the enthusiasm there is for golf at the place where the diminishing gold supply is stored.

But it didn't take too much lobbying on the part of Todd to bring this to the attention of the brass. Playing with the CO or one of the colonels, it was only necessary for him to drop an occasional hint that he felt somewhat hemmed in and didn't really think he was giving his clients anything like the ultimate in service because of want of space in the pro shop.

Drawing Board Brought Out

Even the armored divisions are acutely aware of the word, "space", these days, and so Houck's discreet comments about lack of it made an impression. The result:

Maj. Gen. W. Paul Johnson suggested to Col. Frank W. White that he get out his drawing board and start making preliminary sketches for a new pro shop. When Lt. Col. R. C. Harper, the golf chmn., got word of what was going on he "threw his forces into the assault" to use an old Knox expression. With all that high command behind him, Todd could have promoted almost anything at the Fort except some of those gold bars.

Houck's new shop is of concrete block construction, is 76 ft. long and 46 ft. wide and has a covered patio that runs the length of the shop. The above dimensions give him 700 sq. ft. of display space and twice as much area for storage. The sales section is finished in knotty pine with fixtures to match. The floor is covered with two-tone tile which takes spike traffic. Five double fluorescent lights give sparkle to the displays.

Wife Is Aide

Houck and his wife, Katharen, who keeps books and operates the shop in his absence, moved into the new location about three months ago. They did it with a flourish, too, inviting the players to an Open House at which food, punch and coffee were served and apparel and equipment given as door prizes.

In his nine years at Fort Knox, Houck has played host to hundreds of golfers
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Happy Hunting with Smith

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in the Ken Smith organization. Bill Bucher, 70, won the 1926 Excelsior Springs Invitation, 1928 K. C. Amateur and a number of club titles. Glennon Riley probably is Happy Hunting's top performer. A few years ago he was rated one of the finest players in the K. C. amateur ranks. Several other employees play to handicaps of around five on regulation courses.

Built of Stone

The original 40 acres on which the Happy Hunting clubhouse and the plant are located were owned by the grandfather of Cliff and Kenny Garrett, who work for Smith. The Smith home and plant are built of stone from an underlying ledge of limestone. About 500 tons went into construction of the two buildings.

The setting of the two buildings, by the way, is a little breathtaking. It is in the center of a onetime 220-acre farm and is surrounded by magnificent trees and shrubs. There are more than 500 walnut trees surrounding the plant and course and most of them are nearly 100 years old, their life expectancy.

Fort Knox Pro Project

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representing permanent post personnel, the Reserves, National Guard and ROTC. Play is heavy from early March until Thanksgiving and any week isn't complete without some kind of competition going on. The Lady's Golf Assn. is particularly active. Todd cooperates with the officials of this organization in staging three free clinics each summer exclusively for women swingers. Also, during the summer, the Fort Knox pro conducts free bi-weekly clinics for Juniors, culminating the program with a series of big tournaments for kids of different age groups.

One of the Finest

The Ft. Knox course, thanks to Colonel Harper's relentless attention to maintenance detail, is one of the finest in the mid-South. It is laid out over slightly rolling land, is 6,500 yds. long and par of 72 isn't broken very often. The course record, appropriately enough, is held by Houck. He shot a 34-30—64 on it in 1954 in a pro-member event and candidly confesses he hasn't come anywhere near that figure since.